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Gates Confirmed as No. 2 at CIA

Associated Press

The Senate voted yesterday to confirm Robert M. Gates as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Gates was confirmed quickly and without objection after being praised by Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) as "an extremely professional member of our intelligence community." Leahy is vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The approval by voice vote came less than a week after the intelligence panel voted 10 to 0 to recommend Gates, 42, to succeed John M. McMahon, a 34-year CIA veteran who resigned in February. There were reports that his depar-

ture stemmed from discontent with administration policies, but McMahon said "nothing could be further from the truth."

Gates is a career professional whose most recent post was deputy CIA director for intelligence.

At his confirmation hearing last week, he defended the increasing use of covert action by the administration, telling the intelligence panel he considered covert action "an appropriate instrument of foreign policy, as long as it is taken within a broader context."

Gates also vowed to try to reduce intelligence leaks to reporters, and told the panel he believed such leaks were due to a "lack of discipline" by people with access to sensitive information.